

(Jan. 1946)

Kwajalein Dist. ✓

ENCLOSURE (A)

Administration of Military Government for Eniwetok Atoll during the month of January 1946.

1. POPULATION

Native Marshallese now living on Eniwetok Atoll number 126. Two children removed by the Japanese in 1942 remain to be repatriated from Ponape.

There were two marriages during the month: Welley, 25, Eniwetok clan, to Jelina, 19, Engebi clan; Yostaro, 23, Eniwetok clan, to Sope, 17, Engebi clan.

2. MARSHALLESE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Nothing to report.

3. MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

Nothing to report.

4. COURTS AND LAWS

Nothing to report.

5. CLAIMS

No claims have been filed.

6. CIVILIAN SUPPLY (RELIEF ONLY)

No relief measures were necessary.

#### 7. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

No new problems were encountered in this direction. The natives have been encouraged to build additional fly traps and to pay greater attention to poling-up the area. Several cases of yaws are under treatment and one patient, David, an infectious case, has been admitted to the dispensary at Eniwetok for intensive treatment.

#### 8. WATER SUPPLY

The water catch on the native islands of Aomon and Biijuri has proved adequate to needs during the current dry season. The current season, however, is not typical. The island people are being provided with surplus corrugated iron roofing to implement the catchment process.

#### 9. TRANSPORTATION

The local Marshallese completed and put into operation an additional outrigger sailing canoe during the month. Another is under construction. This will materially improve mobility in the islands but will still leave transportation inadequate. A hull of suitable size for conversion into a sailing vessel is now being sought locally, and if found should go far toward solving the island transportation problem.

#### 10. MONEY AND CREDIT

In January the local Marshallese were paid \$567.25 for shells and products of native handicraft. This is substantially less than the income realized during December. Accounting is made on the scheduled supply trips

each three weeks, however, and only one such trip occurred in January.

11. PUBLIC FINANCE

Nothing to report.

12. CUSTODY AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY

Nothing to report.

13. AGRICULTURE

Prospects for re-establishing the growth of foods essential to the local diet continue poor, as reported earlier. If transportation permits, an effort will be made to transfer discarded top soil from Eniwetok and Parry Islands to selected garden areas on Aomon and Biijari. In connection with this whole problem, reference is made to the monthly report for December, 1945.

14. TRADE AND INDUSTRY

(a) Trade Stores: During January the local Marshallese purchased foodstuffs and trade goods in the amount of \$445.60

(b) Handicrafts: Sales of shells and products of native handicrafts amounted to \$567.25.

(c) Copra: Reference is made to the monthly report for December 1945. It is recommended that the United States Commercial Company take steps looking toward the revival of the copra trade in this area.

- (d) Fishing: This activity continues on a subsistence basis.  
(e) Other Trade and Industry: None.

#### 15. LABOR

The Runit Island cleanup operation, which brought substantial quantities of salvaged materials to the local Marshallese, was concluded during the month. Twenty atoll natives have been given employment on Parry Island for one week. This work will terminate the first week in February.

The Ponapean workers from the native labor camp on Eniwetok Island have established themselves firmly in the good opinion of the base. Their energy and cheerfulness continue unabated, and they have created an enviable work-record. The camp area has been enlarged, and adjoining facilities are now used in connection with the English language instruction program. The Ponapeians participated in a program of their native songs over the local radio station during the month, and are scheduled for a similar performance in the near future.

#### 16. INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA

Nothing to report.

#### 17. DISPLACED PERSONS

Only two displaced persons of this atoll remain to be repatriated: Ruth, age 15, who was erroneously reported from Ponape to be married; and Aruo, age 18, who was indicated to be ill. The Military Government unit at Ponape states that these two young Marshallese will be returned here as

soos as transportation is available.

18. EDUCATION AND RELIGION

The chaplain has visited the native islands several times in company with the Military Government Officer. At the request of the native evangelist, Ernest, he officiated at the baptism of two children during the month.

Educational facilities continue inadequate. A request has been made for a native teacher equipped to instruct in English, and for teaching materials.

19. PUBLIC WELFARE

No problems arose in this field.

20. MISCELLANEOUS.

On the occasion of his transfer to another command, the Military Government Officer submits the following comments:

(1) Though the Eniwetok natives constitute a small group numerically, no solution to the problem of their economic future has yet been effected. They believe that atoll resources are insufficient to support the two clans now residing here. For this reason, Abream, Chief of the Engobi clan, wishes to transfer his people to Ujelang Atoll, leaving the Eniwetok clan, under Chief Joaniz, on Eniwetok Atoll. Because of transportation difficul-

(Jan. 1946)

Kwajalein Dist.

ties here, the Military Government Officer has not had a chance to examine Ujelang, but the atoll was recently visited by the two local clan chiefs and by Chief Petty Officer Brown Smith, Marshallese interpreter. They report that the atoll is uninhabited and that it contains all the resources necessary to existence, plus a good stand of coconut trees for possible future copra exploitation.

(2) It is recommended that early consideration be given the expressed wish of the Engebi clan to transfer themselves to Ujeland, providing a satisfactory solution is found for the problem of property rights both at Eniwetok and Ujeland, and providing further that adequate liaison can be maintained and that the economic interests of the natives are safeguarded.

(3) Whether all or only half the local natives remain in Eniwetok Atoll, the question of future sources of livelihood will remain important. Early revival of the old agricultural economy seems unlikely. Eniwetok and Engebi, the only islands where natural conditions favored the growth of foods essential to the customary diet, were destroyed agriculturally by military action. Expert assistance, plus fertilizers, are needed if local food sources are to be expanded. There is top soil on Eniwetok, which was pushed aside to make the air strip, and the suggestion is being made here that some of this soil be transported to a selected garden area on Aomon Island. Even if such a small scale project should be successful, however, it would take care of only a portion of the needs.

(4) Though forthcoming bombing experiments in this area will bring in a number of new persons and serve temporarily to stimulate the market for

(Jan. 1946)

Kwajalein Dist.

shell products, the long-range market outlook therefor is not good. At the present time, the native Marshallese are almost entirely dependent on this market for their daily food. In this connection, it is believed that the following three sources of potential future income should be examined carefully:

- (a) Revival of the copra trade. On 16 April 1945 the F.E.A. representative stated that when the Navy advised that other sources of income were exhausted, a copra buying program would be instituted. The Military Government Officer believes that steps should be taken in this direction immediately in this atoll and - if the Engebi clan moves as suggested above - at Ujelang. Coconut stands at Eniwetok and Ujelang were notable in the days before the war. Potential production at Eniwetok has been estimated at 90 tons. The natives are familiar with the techniques of copra production.
- (b) The development of new markets for native handwork in the States.
- (c) Compensation (by purchase, lease, or indemnity) for use of native lands, where title is found to vest in native populations.

## 21. MILITARY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

H.C. MEADE, Lt. (jg), (S), USNR - Military Government Officer.

W.C. HAMBY, Lt. Comdr., MC, USN, Senior Medical Officer; Military Government Medical Officer on a collateral duty basis.

R.G. DIETIKER, Lt. (jg), S(E), USNR, Labor Officer for Military Government.

W.A. HELSETH, Ensign, (D)L, USNR, Assistant Labor Officer for Military Government.

(Jan. 1946)

Kwajalein Dist.

N.J. BONOMO, APC, USN, Military Government Supply Officer on a collateral duty basis.

BROWN SMITH, Chief Petty Officer, R.F.N.V.R. - Marshallese Interpreter.

H. C. MEADE,  
Lt. (jg), USNR,  
Military Government Officer.